

Amendments to the claims (this listing replaces all prior versions):

1. (Currently amended) A method comprising
  1. withdrawing currency from a stack of bills for dispensing to a customer,
  2. prior to dispensing, detecting a thickness of the withdrawn currency by moving a free end of an elongated finger by an amount that corresponds to the thickness of the withdrawn currency, and
  3. determining the amount by which the free end is moved by measuring relative rotation of two inductively coupled elements which maintain a uniform separation.
2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 in which the moving of the free end is done by passing the currency between the finger and a stationary element.
3. (original) The method of claim 2 in which the finger is biased to press the currency against the stationary element.
4. (original) The method of claim 3 in which the currency is driven across the stationary element after it has been withdrawn from the stack of bills.
5. (original) The method of claim 4 in which the currency is driven across the stationary element by passing it through a nip between two rollers, the nip being spaced above the stationary element.
6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 in which the moving of the free end causes rotation of the finger about an axis.
7. (previously presented) The method of claim 6 in which the amount by which the free end is moved is determined by relative rotation of two inductively coupled elements.

8. (currently amended) Apparatus comprising

a passage through which currency can be driven,

a free end of an elongated finger configured to be moved, when the currency is driven through the passage, by a distance that corresponds to a thickness of the currency, and

a pair of inductively coupled elements that are configured to be rotated relative to one another by motion of the elongated finger to detect the distance that corresponds to the thickness of the currency, the inductively coupled elements maintaining a uniform separation.

9. (original) The apparatus of claim 8 in which the passage comprises a supporting surface and a space next to the supporting surface.

10. (original) The apparatus of claim 8 also including a second finger.

11. (original) The apparatus of claim 8 in which the free ends projects generally in the direction in which the currency is driven.

12. (original) The apparatus of claim 8 in which the finger is biased towards a side of the passage.

13. (original) The apparatus of claim 8 in which the finger is connected to one of the inductively coupled elements.

14. (original) The apparatus of claim 8 in which the elongated finger is spring loaded to bias the movable element.

15. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 8 in which one of the inductively coupled elements include paddles connected to the elongated finger.

16. (original) The apparatus of claim 15 in which the other of the inductively coupled elements is stationary and the paddles are configured to be movable and generally parallel to the stationary element.

17. (previously presented) A method comprising  
    withdrawing currency from a stack of bills for dispensing to a customer,  
    prior to dispensing, detecting a thickness of the withdrawn currency by causing relative rotation between two inductively-coupled elements by an amount that corresponds to the thickness of the withdrawn currency.

18. (previously presented) A double detect mechanism for a cash dispenser comprising  
    a passage through which currency can be driven after it is withdrawn from a money box,  
    a finger that lies in the passage and is configured to be moved, when the currency is driven through the passage, through a distance that corresponds to the thickness of the currency,  
    a rotational shaft connected to be rotated when the finger is moved, the rotational shaft bearing paddles, and

    a circuit board bearing an electromagnetic element that cooperatives with the paddles to measure the relative rotation of the rotational shaft and the electromagnetic element.

19. (original) Apparatus comprising  
    a paper path arranged between an opening in a money box through which currency can be withdrawn for dispensing to a customer at a dispensing location that is spaced apart from the opening in the money box, the paper path including rotational shafts arranged to transfer the currency, and

a housing that supports the paper path and is configured to receive the money box,  
the housing comprising at least two parallel spaced-apart molded side walls,  
the paper path comprising a molded wall or walls between the two parallel molded side  
walls.

20. (original) The apparatus of claim 19 in which the molded side walls and the third molded  
wall comprise separate pieces.

21. (original) The apparatus of claim 19 also including a molded top wall configured to support  
electromechanical drive elements, and a molded bottom wall.

22. (original) The apparatus of claim 19 also including plastic snap-in bearings mounted on the  
parallel side walls and configured to support ends of the rotational shafts.

23. (original) The apparatus of claim 19 in which the opening in the money box is at one end of  
the housing, the dispensing location is at an opposite end of the housing, and the paper path  
comprises a substantially linear path between the opening in the money box and the dispensing  
location.

24. (original) The apparatus of claim 23 also including a double-detect mechanism mounted on  
the paper path at the money box opening, the double-detect mechanism comprising a rotating  
element that is electromagnetically coupled to a detector on a stationary element.

25. (original) A currency dispenser comprising  
a substantially linear paper path arranged between (a) an opening in a money box through  
which currency can be withdrawn and (b) a dispensing location at which the currency can be

dispensed to a customer, the paper path comprising rotational shafts arranged to transfer the currency,

a housing configured to support the paper path to receive the money box, the housing including two parallel spaced-apart molded side walls, a third molded side wall between the two parallel molded side walls, a molded top wall configured to support electromechanical drive elements, and a molded bottom wall, the five walls being separate pieces,

plastic snap-in bearings mounted on the parallel side walls and configured to support ends of the rotational shafts, and

a double-detect mechanism mounted on the paper path at the money box opening, the double-detect mechanism comprising a rotating element that is electromagnetically coupled to a detector on a stationary element.

26. (original) A method comprising, not necessarily in the recited order:

using fasteners to assemble two parallel side walls and a paper path wall between the two parallel side walls to form a housing of a currency dispenser,

attaching plastic bearings to the two side walls to mount currency drive shafts across the paper path wall between the two side walls, and

attaching a double-detect mechanism on the paper path.

27. (original) The method of claim 26 comprising using fasteners to assemble top and bottom walls as part of the housing.

28. (original) The method of claim 27 in which the fasteners comprise metal screws.

29. (original) The method of claim 27 in which no more than three fasteners are used to assemble the mating edges of each pair of the walls.

30. (original) Apparatus comprising

a molded linear path having a flat supporting surface for currency being driven from a money box at one end of the path to a dispensing location at the other end of the path,

a pattern of static electricity grounding elements arranged along the path, and

coupling features configured to enable mounting of the path between two side walls of a housing of a currency dispenser.

31. (original) The apparatus of claim 30 in which the grounding elements comprise braided wire and metal lugs.

32. (original) The apparatus of claim 30 in which the pattern of grounding elements comprises spacing the grounding elements at small enough spacing to dissipate static charge.

33. (original) The apparatus of claim 30 also including

a double-detect mechanism mounted on the paper path.

34. (original) The apparatus of claim 30 also including

curved surfaces at opposite ends of the flat supporting surfaces, the curved surfaces being configured to direct currency from the money box onto the linear paper path and from the linear paper path to the dispensing location.

35. (original) A method comprising

determining the presence or absence of a flaw in currency being dispensed to a customer,

routing the currency either to a dispensing location or to a retention location depending on the detected presence or absence of the flaw, and causing the currency to be routed by default to the retention location in the absence of a determination that a flaw is not present.

36. (original) The method of claim 35 in which the flaw comprises a double bill or a bill that is too thick or too thin.

37 (original) The method of claim 36 in which the routing is done by a movable mechanical element.

38. (original) The method of claim 36 in which a series of bills is dispensed one after another, and the default routing is applied only to the first bill in the series after which the remaining bills in the series are routed by default to the dispensing location.